

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A ~~notifying~~ method[[,]] comprising:
 receiving an ~~indication~~ indicator indicating that a notification message should is to be delivered to a plurality of recipients;
 identifying contact information [[for]] associated with each of the plurality of recipients;
 initiating outbound packetized calls to more than one of the plurality of recipients;
 determining whether a first recipient of the plurality of recipients answers a first call
 [[of]] associated with the outbound packetized calls, the first call placed to a first telephone address included in the contact information associated with the first recipient;
~~in response to determining that when~~ the first recipient ~~answers~~ answered the first call, connecting the first call to a multicast server to deliver the notification message during the first call via the multicast server; and
~~in response to determining that when~~ the first recipient ~~does~~ did not answer the first call, initiating an email message to an electronic mail address included in the contact information associated with the first recipient, wherein the email message includes the notification message ~~retrying the first recipient via one or more communication addresses associated with the first recipient, the one or more communication addresses including at least one of a second telephone address that is different from the first telephone address and an electronic mail address;~~
 and
~~stopping retrying the first recipient after determining that the first recipient has received the notification message or after retrying all the one or more communication addresses associated with the first recipient.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a connection supporting the first call comprises a twisted pair link, and wherein the method further comprises:

disconnecting from the first call; and

indicating successful delivery of the notification message to the first recipient.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

recognizing that customer ~~premise~~ premises equipment associated with the first call

comprises specialized ring tone functionality; and

communicating a specialized incoming call signal to the customer ~~premise~~ premises equipment.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining a master list of users ~~to be notified in response to receipt of a given indicator;~~

~~determining that the received indication is the given indicator; and~~

in response to receiving the indicator, determining a call list that identifies the using the list of users to identify contact information [[for]] associated with each of the plurality of recipients.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the outbound packetized calls comprises a ~~Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)~~ voice over internet protocol call.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein a VoIP voice over internet protocol switch initiates the outbound packetized calls substantially simultaneously ~~to more than one hundred of the plurality of recipients.~~

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein a VoIP voice over internet protocol switch initiates the outbound packetized calls simultaneously to a first group ~~more than one~~ of the plurality of recipients substantially simultaneously, wherein the VoIP voice over internet protocol switch [[has]] is associated with a simultaneous connections limit, ~~further wherein the more than one first group of the plurality of recipients comprises a number of recipients less greater than a threshold value of the simultaneous connections limit, wherein the threshold value is 75% of the simultaneous connections limit.~~

8-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently amended) A notification system[[,]] comprising:

a memory storing a plurality maintaining contact information for a collection of subscribers to be notified in response to a given first notification signal, the ~~collection~~ plurality of subscribers comprising a first user subscriber and [[the]] contact information [[for]] associated with the first user subscriber, the contact information associated with the first subscriber comprising at least one of a voice over internet protocol Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone number, a landline telephone number, a wireless device telephone number, and an electronic mail address;

a network interface operable to;

receive the given first notification signal; and [[to]]

output a trigger signal in response to receipt of the given first notification signal;

a first notification message associated with the first notification signal to be played provided to the ~~collection~~ plurality of subscribers ~~in response to receipt of the given notification signal;~~

a VoIP voice over internet protocol switch responsive to the trigger signal and operable to;

support a plurality of simultaneous connections, ~~the VoIP switch further operable to; and~~

initiate communications to a plurality of users in the collection first group of subscribers of the plurality of subscribers, wherein a voice over internet protocol call is placed to the first subscriber at the voice over internet protocol telephone number;

a notification received mechanism operable to determine whether the first user ~~receives a communication~~ subscriber answered the voice over internet protocol call placed to the first user subscriber; and

an ~~Internet Protocol (IP)~~ internet protocol multicast server operable to[[,]];

when the first user ~~answers a given VoIP~~ subscriber answered the voice over internet protocol call, deliver the first notification message via the given VoIP voice over internet protocol call[[,]]; and

when the first user ~~does~~ subscriber did not answer the given VoIP voice over internet protocol call, [[to]] ~~retry the first user via the contact information~~ initiate an email message to the electronic mail address, wherein the email message includes the first notification message.

12-13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 11, further comprising: a notify notification list comprising the ~~collection~~ first group of subscribers to be notified in response to the given first notification signal and a second ~~collection~~ group of subscribers of the plurality of subscribers to be notified in response to a second notification signal[[,]]; and

wherein the network interface is further operable to:

receive the second notification signal; and [[to]]

output a second trigger signal in response to receipt of the second notification signal.

15. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 14, further comprising a second notification message to be played provided to the second ~~collection~~ group of subscribers in response to receipt of the second notification signal.

16. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 11, wherein the given first notification signal ~~comprises an Emergency Alert System notification~~ is formatted in emergency alert system protocol.

17. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 11, further comprising a call log engine operable to:

track a metric associated with ~~message~~ delivery of the first notification message to each subscriber of the first group to the collection of subscribers, ~~the call-log engine further operable to;~~ and

initiate a retry signal directing the ~~VoIP voice over internet protocol~~ switch to retry a ~~call to a given subscriber~~ the first user via the voice over internet protocol telephone number when the first subscriber did not answer the voice over internet protocol call.

18. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 11, further comprising a specialized ring tone signal communicated to customer premises equipment operable to play a specialized ring tone, the specialized ring tone signal identifying that identifies an incoming call ~~as an attempt to deliver~~ associated with the first notification message.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 11, wherein the contact information ~~associated with the first subscriber~~ further comprises at least one of an ~~Instant Messaging~~ instant messaging address, ~~a Short-Messaging-Service~~ address, an ~~Enhanced Messaging-Service~~ enhanced messaging service address, and a ~~Multimedia-Messaging-Service~~ multimedia messaging service address.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~facilitating multicast notification~~, comprising:

~~maintaining a collection of contact information including Voice over Internet Protocol~~
~~(VoIP) a plurality of voice over internet protocol~~ telephone numbers;

creating a notification list including a plurality of recipients, wherein each recipient of the plurality of recipients corresponds to a first comprising at least one VoIP voice over internet protocol telephone number included in the ~~from the collection of~~ contact information;

associating the notification list with an event trigger;

saving a file representing a notification message ~~to be communicated to the notification list in response to receipt of~~ associated with the event trigger;

in response to receipt of the event trigger, initiating a first call to ~~[[a]] the first VoIP voice over internet protocol~~ telephone number ~~[[of]] corresponding to~~ a first recipient ~~[[on]] of~~ the notification list;

determining whether the first call is answered;

when the first call is answered~~[[,]]~~:

passing the answered first call to an ~~Internet Protocol (IP)~~ internet protocol multicast server; and

communicating the notification message via the answered first call using the IP internet protocol multicast server; and

when ~~the first recipient does not answer~~ the first call~~[[,]] is not answered~~:

retrying the first recipient via ~~one or more communication addresses associated with the first recipient that are maintained in the contact information, the one or more communication addresses including at least one of a second VoIP voice over internet protocol~~ telephone number that is different from the first ~~VoIP voice over internet protocol~~ telephone number; and

initiating an email message to an electronic mail address associated with the first recipient, wherein the email message includes the notification message;

and

when a number of retries satisfies a threshold, ~~stopping retrying the first recipient via the one or more communication addresses.~~

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
creating a second notification list including a second plurality of recipients, wherein each recipient of the second plurality of recipients corresponds to a third comprising the at least one VoIP voice over internet protocol telephone number from the collection included in the contact information; and
associating the second notification list with a ~~different~~ second event trigger.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising creating the notification list based at least ~~partially in part~~ on a geographic location, wherein each recipient of the plurality of recipients resides in the geographic location of a telephone station associated with the first VoIP telephone number.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising creating the notification list based at least ~~partially in part~~ on a demographic criterion common to the plurality of recipients ~~group affiliation of a user associated with the first VoIP telephone number.~~

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the file has a format selected from the group consisting of a .WAV file, a .MIDI file, and a .AU file.

26-27. (Canceled).

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator includes the notification message.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising, in response to determining that the first recipient did not answer the first call, initiating delivery of the notification message to a wireless communication device associated with the first recipient.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the wireless communication device is a mobile telephone.

31. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising, in response to determining that the first recipient did not answer the first call, initiating a second call to a second telephone address included in the contact information associated with the first recipient.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the first telephone address is different from the second telephone address.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein initiating the second call and initiating the email message occur substantially simultaneously.

34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator includes a time period that the notification message is valid.

35. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein retrying the first recipient via the second voice over internet protocol telephone number occurs after expiration of a time interval subsequent to determining whether the first call is answered, wherein the time interval is randomly selected.